

Town of Locke, Dai Loy Gambling Museum  
13951 Main Street  
Locke  
Sacramento County  
California

HABS No. CA-2071 W

HABS,  
CAL,  
34-LOCKE,  
1/23-

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. CA-2071 W

## TOWN OF LOCKE

## DAI LOY GAMBLING MUSEUM

Location: 13951 Main Street, (east side of street at mid-block),  
Locke, Sacramento County, California.

USGS Courtland Quadrangle:  
UTM Coordinates: 10/630510/4234450

Present Owner: Millhauser/MCC Armstrong (Frances Armstrong) Building Owner  
P.O. Box 615  
Walnut Grove, California 95690

Asian City Development, Inc. Land Owner  
P.O. Box 987  
Walnut Grove, California 95690

Present Occupant: Dai Loy Gambling Museum

Present Use: Museum

Significance: This is one of a group of buildings that forms a Main Street facade, each separated by a narrow alleyway and typical of such structures with similar facades. It was built in 1916 and operated as a gambling house until 1950 when it was closed, yet remains important as a harmonious part of the architectural context of the street.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement:

1. Architectural merit and interest: This wooden structure is typical of the original buildings erected in 1915 when the Chinese came to Locke. It is topped by metal-covered gable roofs and sheathed with wooden siding.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

## B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The one-and-a-half-story building is approximately twenty-four feet across the three-bay front and sixty feet deep.
2. Foundation: Wooden pier and beam, some on concrete footings.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Narrow board wooden siding with corner boards painted white on the west facade, unpainted on the other facades.

4. Structural system, framing: Wooden frame construction.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc: A one-story porch supported by four wooden columns extends across the east (rear) facade. Across the west front facade is a three-bay one-story canopy covering the concrete sidewalk. It is also supported by four wooden columns. A covered alleyway with a wooden floor on the south side connects with the next building, creating a two-bay porch at the extreme east end. The alleyway has a molded arched entrance on the west facade with an engaged pilaster at either side. There is a series of electric light sockets along the upper molding that are not now used, but a series of light sockets has been added in the soffit of the arch. Extending above the arch to the ceiling are vertical beaded boards with a molding that extends around the panel on three sides.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: In the center of the west facade is a double door entrance with two-panel wooden doors topped by a filled transom. The main entrance door is on the south facade near the west front. A heavy wooden paneled door is braced by cross timbers.

Two additional doors on the south are near the center and rear. Each has a thick batten door with prominent iron strap hinges. In the center of the east facade is a doorway leading onto the porch.
  - b. Windows and shutters: There are two windows on the west facade with the lower sash boarded up, a two-light upper sash and both sashes completely boarded up on the interior. The wooden surrounds exist on both the interior and exterior. There are one-light wooden sash sliding windows on the second floor. High openings in the main gambling room on the north and south walls have side-hinged wooden louvres that have horizontal flat iron bars and large grid mesh wire across them on the exterior.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The main block has a gable roof; the porches have shed roofs. All surfaces are covered with corrugated sheet metal. The flat roof covering the alleyway has asphalt roll sheeting.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed cornice returns on the east and west ends.
  - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Two cupolas sit atop the roof near the west front. One is centered on the ridge, the other is to the south of the ridge. Each has a flat roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. The splayed sides of the cupolas on the interior have beaded wooden board paneling and three wooden beams extending across the opening at the main room ceiling line. There are

two windows in each and an access door leading into the attic. The cupola on the southeast of the building has a metal gutter around the bottom, with an iron pipe extending through the wall to the exterior.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The entrance at the southwest corner of the south facade opens into a vestibule, then into the large, open gambling room. Two small, square rooms (the money and lottery rooms) are built against the north wall. Near the east end of the gambling room, on the north wall is a doorway leading to the stairway. Across the east wall is a doorway leading to a storage room and an alcove in the center leading to the exterior. On the east wall above the lottery cage are screened observation or ventilation openings. On either side of the center alcove at the east end of the gambling room is a doorway leading into a small toilet on the southeast and a storage room on the northeast.
- b. Second floor: The second floor is L-shaped, over the first-floor toilet storage, money and lottery rooms, and partitioned into two bedrooms.

2. Stairways: The open-well stairway has a quarter-turn with landing leading to the second floor. The wooden treads and risers have a closed stringer between walls. The simple iron pipe handrail extends from the first floor curving at the landing and continuing to a wooden railing at the second floor. The wooden railing extends around the opening at the second floor and ends at the wall.
3. Flooring: Narrow board flooring throughout.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings have beaded board paneling, painted ivory in the gambling room and unpainted on the second floor.
5. Doorways and doors: The doors have five double-raised horizontal panels, framed by plain surrounds. The door in the money room is thick board-and-batten.
6. Decorative features and trim: The lottery window has a wooden shelf in front of the gambling room wide with a diamond-mesh wire grille separating it from the lottery room. There are two small, hinged pass-through openings with a thin metal plate on the lottery room side, displaying faded Chinese painting on the face. The counter extending through the opening has a wooden money drawer in the center and two large slots on each side.

At various locations on the floor in the gambling room are metal sheets, approximately two feet in length by one and one-half feet in width, turned up the face of the wall approximately six inches. They are used as spittoons when saw-dust is added. The movable gaming tables are simple wooden frames with the tops covered with a vinyl fabric.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: One small kerosene space heater.
- b. Ventilation: Two electric ceiling fans, one with four wooden blades and one with two wooden blades, both suspended from the ceiling.
- c. Lighting: A single hanging lighting fixture over each gaming table with single light bulb and conical metal shade, painted dark green. Kerosene lanterns hang from the ceiling around the room for use in power outages.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: The building sits on the east side of Main Street facing west. There are commercial structures across the street, with shops on the first level and living quarters on the second level. The Chinese Association Building is on the north side across the narrow alley. To the east are residential structures.

Prepared By: John P. White  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1979

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Chinese Historical Association of America. The recording project was completed during the summer of 1979 under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect; John P. White, Project Supervisor (Texas Tech University); Pamela O. Chang, Architectural Foreman (University of California, Berkeley); with student architects William F. Hand (Auburn University); Clemson Lam (University of Hawaii); Gregory C. Tung (Yale University); and David G. Virgil (Carnegie-Mellon University), at the HABS Field Office in Sacramento, California. The drawings were edited in the HABS Washington office in January 1980 by staff architects William Graham and David Marsh. The written data was edited by staff historian Jan Cigliano during January-March 1980.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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